GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2092
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2016
Cancer Due to Pollution
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation"s (WHO) World Cancer Report 2015 reported that around 3.5 lakh people in India succumb to cancer every year and has called for urgent preventive steps to check pollution to decrease the risk of cancer, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the recent report of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) stated that outdoor air pollution is the cancer causing agent, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether CNG and diesel are also polluting and causing cancer, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has taken any action on the reports of WHO and IARC and proposes to formulate a national policy to deliver and equitable, quality and affordable cancer care facilities and to promote research on cancer in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a) to (e): As reported by WHO, more than 1 million new cases are reported in India while about 6.8 lakh people die due to cancer in India. As per WHO- NCD Country Profile 2014, about 7 % of all deaths are due to various cancers. However, Cancer is a multi factorial disease, the risk factors of which inter alia include ageing population, unhealthy life styles, use of tobacco and tobacco products, unhealthy diet & air pollution. However, as per ICMR"s National Cancer Registry data; the estimated number of deaths due to cancer is 7,01,007 in the country for the year 2015.

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International Agency for Research in Cancer (IARC) has classified outdoor air pollution (particulate matter) as Carcinogenic to human. Diesel engine exhaust has also a group of pollutants which are carcinogenic. In comparison to diesel, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) has lower Carbon Dioxide and particulate emission.

Government has taken various steps to control pollution in the country including the following:
i. Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards envisaging 12 pollutants;
ii. Formulation of environmental regulations / statutes;
iii. Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel, ethanol blend etc. replacing petrol and diesel;
iv. Promotion of cleaner production processes;
v. Implementation of Bharat Stage IV (BS-IV) norms in 72 selected cities and universalization of BS-IV by 2017;
vi. Decision taken to leapfrog directly from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020;
vii. Promotion of public transport network of metro, buses, e-rickshaws and promotion of carpooling, Pollution Under Control, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance;

The Government of India is implementing a National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) since 2010. The objectives of the programme include awareness generation on risk factors, capacity creation by the way of setting up of NCD Clinics at CHC and district level and treatment and referral to higher level facilities, if required. The programmatic focus is on three common Cancers viz. Oral, Breast and Cervical.

In addition Cancer care is the focus area of many upgraded institutions under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna and new AIIMS.

The Government of India is also implementing Tertiary Care for Cancer scheme in the country under which State Cancer Institutes (SCI) and Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCC) are being set up in different parts of the country. The SCI and TCCC shall mentor all

Cancer related activities including research, treatment & awareness generation inter alia.

In the Government sector, Research activities for detection and treatment of cancer are mostly carried out by Institutions/Departments such as the Indian Council of Medical Research, Department of Science and Technology and Department of Atomic Energy. National Cancer Institute is being set up at Jhajjar which will be the apex institute on Cancer including for research. Second Campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata is also approved.
The Government of India has constituted a Steering Committee on air pollution and health in January, 2014. The committee has submitted report in September, 2015 which has been circulated to various concerned Ministries for appropriate action to reduce levels of air pollution.
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